

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JIMMY LAI

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 3, 2021

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on December 3, 2020, one year ago, Jimmy Chee-ying Lai, founder of the now shuttered Hong Kong pro-democracy newspaper the Apple Daily, was denied bail for the first time. He has since been convicted and sentenced and will spend his 74th birthday on December 8 behind bars.

Jimmy Lai's life epitomizes the rise and fall of Hong Kong's freedoms.

Mr. Lai was born in Guangzhou, Guangdong, in China in 1947. At the age of 12, he entered Hong Kong as a stowaway on a fishing boat. He found work at a garment factory and rose from an odd-job laborer to a manager. In 1975, he bought a bankrupt garment factory and built riches with an Asia-wide clothing chain, Giordano. In interview after interview, Jimmy recalled, "I came here with one dollar, the freedom here has given me the opportunity to build myself up."

The Tiananmen protests of 1989 in China motivated Jimmy to turn his attention from economic opportunities to civil and political freedom. "You deliver information, then you deliver choice, and choice is freedom," he recounted. In 1990, he began publishing Next Magazine with a formula of tabloid-style sensationalism combined with investigative exposés of political and business elites.

In 1995, just two years before Hong Kong's return to China, Jimmy founded the Apple Daily with the catchy slogan "An apple a day keeps the liars away." Against charges that the newspaper was anti-Chinese Communist Party, he retorted that "if we run this newspaper based on hatred of communism, we will fail." Instead, "all we need is to love what we love most, which is freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

This love of freedom is, however, anathema to the Chinese government's goals. When Hong Kongers protested against national security legislation on July 1, 2003, Jimmy's publications urged readers to take to the streets and called for the then Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa to resign.

During the 2014 Umbrella Movement, the Apple Daily was again at the forefront of the call for "genuine universal suffrage." Jimmy camped out at the occupy site in Admiralty near the Central Government Offices. When the police cleared the site on December 13, 2014, he was among those arrested.

During the pro-democracy protests in 2019, the Apple Daily offered blanket coverage of the months-long protests and published hard-hitting reports on police abuses and alleged police-gangster collusion. Jimmy joined various mass demonstrations that numbered up to two million.

In early 2020 Jimmy was repeatedly arrested among other veterans of the city's pro-

democracy movement for organizing and participating in marches on August 18, August 31, and October 1, 2019. Such protests were rendered "unauthorized" simply because the police routinely refused to issue "Notices of No Objection" beginning in August. Jimmy was convicted and sentenced to a total of 20 months in prison. He faces more jail terms for attending an unauthorized candlelight vigil on June 4, 2020.

On June 30, 2020, the National People's Congress Standing Committee enacted the National Security Law to criminalize vaguely defined "subversion," "secession," "terrorism" and "collusion with foreign forces." The law removes the presumption of bail and imposes a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, thereby stifling free expression and other fundamental freedoms in contravention of Hong Kong's Basic Law. Authorities quickly came for their targets. On August 10, police arrested Jimmy, his two sons and three top Apple Daily executives for collusion with external elements and conspiracy to defraud (for violating the terms of a commercial lease). More than 200 police officers also raided the newspaper's headquarters and seized box-loads of documents. On December 3, a court denied Jimmy's bail application and remanded him to custody. He was briefly granted bail in *de facto* house arrest on December 23 but was remanded to custody on December 31 when the court ruled in favor of the Department of Justice's appeal. On February 16, 2021, Jimmy was arrested under the national security law and "perverting the course of justice" for aiding activist Andy Li in his failed attempt to flee to Taiwan.

Locking up Jimmy Lai did not silence the Apple Daily. After the arrest and raid on August 10, 2020, the newspaper published on its front page a photo of Jimmy in handcuffs with the headline "Apple Daily must fight on." In his last media interview with the BBC in December 2020, he remarked that "If they can induce fear in you, that's the cheapest way to control you and the most effective way and they know it. The only way to defeat the way of intimidation is to face up to fear and don't let it frighten you." Journalists at the Apple Daily heroically kept up the fight in subsequent months. In the end, the authorities could strangle the newspaper only by freezing its company accounts in June 2021.

Jimmy said that "Hong Kong . . . made me what I am today" and thus he chose to stay in Hong Kong despite the severe consequences. In truth, Jimmy also made Hong Kong what it was yesterday, by defending freedoms for as long as he could.

Jimmy's fearlessness has been honored with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award by the Committee to Protect Journalists in 2021, the Freedom of Press Award by Reporters Without Borders and the Faith and Freedom Award by the Acton Institute in 2020.

Madam Speaker, as cochair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China I will continue to advocate for the freedoms and human rights of the people of Hong Kong, including Jimmy Lai.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
LONNIE BRAXTON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 3, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the commendable career of a dedicated public servant and important figure in southeastern Connecticut, Lonnie Braxton. After 24 years of service as the Senior Assistant State's Attorney for juvenile matters for New London County, Lonnie retires on December 14th, 2021. Throughout his career, Lonnie has been a stalwart guardian defending civil rights within his community and a source of wisdom and guidance through his leadership positions within the State and local branches of the NAACP. Though the setting of Lonnie's public service has evolved throughout his career, his north star has always been driven by his mission to assist others. He has served honorably throughout his career, representing a true commitment to civil rights and justice.

Born in 1948, Lonnie was raised in Greenville, Mississippi where he attended high school and signaled his high level of competence, joining the U.S. Navy Reserves by his sophomore year. Upon his graduation, he served 18 months on Active Duty aboard the USS *Amphion* AR-13. After completing his Active Duty service with the Navy, our region became lucky enough for Lonnie to take a job with the submarine manufacturer Electric Boat in Groton, ultimately causing him to choose southeastern Connecticut as his new home. Lonnie went to work at Electric Boat for 10 years, holding various positions including electronics mechanic, radiation control monitor, property control analyst, and technical administrator in the material department. His technical skills and expertise were highly prized in an enterprise that adheres to a standard of excellence. He knew from his naval service that the lives of sailors depended on doing the job right.

Lonnie, of course, was destined to help his community in a different way—to make sure our courts protected the rights of every citizen young or old who came into contact with the criminal justice system. Following his time with Electric Boat, Lonnie went on to further his education, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Connecticut College in 1986 and subsequently a Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1988. He immediately immersed himself in legal work, where he gained the experience that prepared him for his paramount work as a Senior Assistant State's Attorney with the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice. Since 1997, he has worked in Juvenile Court where he has furthered the agency's mission of promoting restorative justice, accountability, and rehabilitation. Lonnie overcame all resistance faced in his career, relentlessly representing every member of his community in the courtroom.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I first met Lonnie as a fellow attorney during my time as a practicing attorney in eastern Connecticut. His intelligence and compassion were apparent to me during the inevitable waiting time that lawyers experience in the court system. Based on that friendship, Lonnie in 2007 recommended a young attorney, Ms. Ayanti Grant, to apply for a job in my district office. Lucky for me, I offered her a job doing constituent immigration casework, and today she is the District Director for Connecticut's second district. I will be forever grateful to Lonnie for that fortuitous suggestion of Ayanti Grant, that has benefited thousands of citizens in eastern Connecticut.

Lonnie spent considerable time outside of his duties as a prosecutor serving his local communities. He is a member of the Board of Finance for the City of New London, a past member of the New London Planning and Zoning Committee, a member of the New London Schools Truancy Review Board, among others. He has demonstrated a commitment to the well-being of others and has helped guide southeastern Connecticut's next generation of legal advocates and civil figures. He became the First Vice President of the Norwich Branch of the NAACP upon its founding in 1963. He has fought for equality and civil rights for decades, having been a former President of the New London Branch of the NAACP. His work has paved the way for current and future activists to continue making gains for all residents of eastern Connecticut. Lonnie has lived through and helped foster great change in his lifetime, helping lead our Nation's continuing civil rights movement.

Outside of his career, Lonnie has demonstrated a passion for family, history, and the arts. He is the proud father of Lonnie Braxton III, who won the gold medal and silver medal in tennis at the National Special Olympics Games in 2010. This commitment to family runs into the past, as he is also the proud keeper of his family's stories and history. He is a renowned speaker and lecturer on the civil rights movement, African-American History, and African-American cinema. This history is crucial to our Nation's present and it is due to the efforts of historians such as Lonnie that the Nation can look to the past and continue striving to fulfill its great promises. Lonnie has also dedicated himself to collecting African-American movies from the 20th century. These arts have greatly contributed to the culture of the United States and we benefit tremendously from Lonnie's preservation efforts.

Madam Speaker, Lonnie's contributions in administering and advocating for justice within Connecticut's Second District are immeasurable and deserving of an equal amount of gratitude. His life and career, dedicated to public service, exist as an inspiration to those who follow in his footsteps. Although his retirement from the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice undoubtedly leaves large shoes to fill, he has demonstrated that the principles that have guided his career are larger than any one position. After such a long tenure in service, I also cannot imagine that his valuable insight will continue to go untapped. Lonnie will continue on to the next phase of his life with his family, his wife, Gwendolyn Bosco, and his son, Lonnie Braxton III. To these ends, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring, thanking, and congratulating Lonnie Braxton for his successful commitment to the

public well-being and safety. There is no better way to honor such a steadfast steward of our community than immortalizing his career through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 3, 2021

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois on their 25th Anniversary.

In 1995, Tracy Baim of Lambda Publications and Kevin Boyer of Communications Management, Inc. saw a need for a local chamber of commerce dedicated to gay- and lesbian-owned businesses. Joined by three other business owners, they launched the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Their goal was to have 30 members by the first organizational meeting in March 1996. By the time the meeting was called to order, the Chamber had grown to include more than 80 businesses.

Today, the Chamber serves a roster of over 300 members, and is still growing quickly. These members are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) business owners, as well as ally-run businesses. Together, member businesses employ over 2,000 people in the Chicago area, with gross revenues that exceed \$200 million. The Chamber fulfills its mission by promoting economic opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals in the state of Illinois by serving as an advocate and resource for businesses that are committed to equality.

On December 7, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois will come together with sponsors, corporate partners, members, and friends to celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. I am honored to have such an exceptional organization in my district.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HOUSTON PILOTS ASSOCIATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 3, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Houston Pilots Association. Over the last century, they have faithfully provided pilotage services to foreign and domestic vessels entering and departing the Port of Houston.

The Houston Ship Channel (HSC) is one of the narrowest and busiest ports in the world, with 21,000 commercial vessels and more than 247 million tons of cargo in transit each year. It provides 3.2 million jobs and contributes \$802 billion to America's yearly economy. In fact, more than 20 percent of Texas' gross domestic product (GDP) is supported by the HSC. The Houston pilots are responsible for

maneuvering vessels safely and efficiently to and from docks through the narrow and congested Houston Ship Channel. Without the knowledge and expertise of the Houston pilots, our great state would not be flourishing.

The origin of the Houston pilots dates back to 1916 when L. Fred Allien and J. William Laughton received gubernatorial appointments as pilots for the Port of Houston and Galveston Bay. The official formation of the Houston Pilots Association occurred five years later, in 1921, when four more men were appointed to ensure the safety of ships and their crews entering and exiting the HSC. Their work laid the foundation for future generations of pilots.

The Houston pilots are a team of skilled ship handlers, commissioned by the governor of the Lone Star State to protect Houston's most vital waterway. Since 1921, 251 pilots have proudly served the Houston Ship Channel. Their names, units of service, and years of service are listed below:

George Allien, Unit No. 1, 1921–1940; James B. Birch, Unit No. 2, 1921–1935; Charles H. McLean, Unit No. 3, 1921–1950; W. Joseph Weikerth, Unit No. 4, 1921–1933; Charles O'Brien, Unit No. 5, 1922–1952; Charles H. Baether, Unit No. 6, 1924–1946; Charles S. Borup, Unit No. 7, 1924–1949; Ezra Sherman, Unit No. 8, 1924–1936; Joseph G. Basquez, Unit No. 9, 1924–1938; Jesse S. Charpentier, Unit No. 10, 1925–1949; Audley Lancaster, Unit No. 11, 1925–1946; Leo Skinner, Unit No. 12, 1925–1952; Mason Wiggins, Unit No. 13, 1926–1949; George W. Allen, Unit No. 14, 1927–1943; Guy M. Stanton, Unit No. 15, 1927–1934; Edward B. Mercer Sr., Unit No. 16, 1928–1950; Albert S. Barrow, Unit No. 17, 1929–1935; Hugh C. Cage, Unit No. 18, 1930–1962; Nick J. Morina, Unit No. 19, 1931–1959; John R. Rowland, Unit No. 20, 1931–1949; Roy C. Blodgett, Unit No. 21, 1932–1960; V. A. Bujan, Unit No. 22, 1932–1934; Henry Corry, Unit No. 23, 1932–1961; W. E. Dunlap, Unit No. 24, 1932–1956; J. F. Cook, Unit No. 25, 1938–1956; Charles H. Fuller, Unit No. 26, 1938–1957; Coney T. McMains, Unit No. 27, 1938–1965; Holt P. Daniels, Unit No. 28, 1940–1957; M. F. Russell, Unit No. 29, 1943–1958; James E. McNary, Unit No. 30, 1947–1972; I.E. Wicker, Unit No. 31, 1947–1958; Charles Barfield, Unit No. 32, 1948–1967; David O. Duncan, Unit No. 33, 1948–1961; Kenneth B. Plash, Unit No. 34, 1948–1959; Merl E. Palmer, Unit No. 35, 1948–1959; Lewis Bennett, Unit No. 36, 1951–1965; Fred A. Parker, Unit No. 37, 1951–1969; Jack E. Rowland, Unit No. 38, 1951–1973; Curtis W. Burlison, Unit No. 39, 1951–1971; Arthur S. Borup, Unit No. 40, 1951–1969; A.G. Royce, Unit No. 41, 1952–1958; Edward B. Mercer Jr., Unit No. 42, 1951–1992; Thomas H. Bratcher, Unit No. 43, 1952–1970; William W. Steinhart, Unit No. 44, 1952–1984; Lee Roy Murray Jr., Unit No. 45, 1952–1984; Paul Collier, Unit No. 46, 1953–1986; Elmer C. Bell, Unit No. 47, 1953–1986; Robert D. Moss, Unit No. 48, 1957–1966; Harold B. Willis, Unit No. 49, 1957–1980; Philip Pizzitola, Unit No. 50, 1956–1996; Pat J. Neely Jr., Unit No. 51, 1957–1992; Robert E. Adams, Unit No. 52, 1957–1994; Thomas N. Lightsey Jr., Unit No. 53, 1957–1993; Leroy Arthur, Unit No. 54, 1957–1977; James C. Wall, Unit No. 55, 1958–1987; Jack W. Vetter, Unit No. 56, 1958–1991; A. Thomas Gibson, Unit No. 57,